

Naval Weapons Station Seal Beach Update
Pacific Coast Highway Project, Pile Driving and Disaster Drills
August 8, 2022

Potential PCH Area Reutilization Project – The 31-day public scoping period for PCH Area Reutilization Project's Environmental Assessment (EA) closed on July 31. Thank you to all who provided comments. Navy staff have now started work on the Environmental Assessment itself. Currently, we are planning to have a draft EA ready for public review and comment in the spring of 2023. For those who might have missed our previous update, this is in regards to a proposed project to modify and/or redevelop a ~29-acre portion of the base located northeast of the Pacific Coast Highway and the Seal Beach Boulevard intersection. At this beginning stage of the process, the Navy has not yet made a decision on future uses of the property. The Navy will use the Environmental Assessment to help determine potential future options for property use, and no final decision will be made until all environmental documentation is complete. More information can be found on the project's web page at www.cnmc.navy.mil/pch.

Pile Driving – In our last update, we stated that our contractors had determined that they could speed up a small subsection of the remaining pile driving if it were to occur much earlier than next year as originally planned. The contractor had intended to start this on July 20 but was delayed. They are now scheduled to start tomorrow and go for the next several weeks. Unlike the pier deck pile driving from earlier this year, this time around the pile driving will be much less frequent. This is due to the more delicate nature of this particular operation, where many of the approximately 20 piles will need to be driven at an angle.

Disaster Drill – This week Navy bases around the country are taking part in Exercise Citadel Rumble 2022. This is our annual series of natural disaster exercises, with bases generally focusing on the most likely disasters in their region. So for example bases on the East Coast will be focusing on hurricane response, while bases on the West Coast will work various scenarios involving earthquakes and tsunamis. Here at Seal Beach we will be running some disaster drills this Thursday morning, August 11. Local residents may see increased first responder activity, and we will likely be testing our "Giant Voice" mass notification loudspeaker system.

Oil Spill Drill – We will be conducting an oil spill drill inside Anaheim Bay on Thursday morning, August 25. During this time local residents may see oil spill boats and equipment in various parts of the bay. Oil spill booms will also be laid out across the bay, and this will require temporary closure of the civilian small boat channel. The civilian boat channel closure is currently scheduled for approximately 9-10am.